

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00957 070743Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06  
PRS-01 EB-07 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /078 W  
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R 070547Z JUN 77  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4649  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0957

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR IZ CZ  
SUBJECT: CZECH PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO IRAQ

1. IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS A CONCERTED EFFORT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN MADE TO EXPAND CZECH-IRAQI COOPERATION. THE MAY 30 - JUNE 2 VISIT TO IRAQ OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER APPEARS TO BE LARGELY A SYMBOLIC, CEREMONIAL BLESSING OF ESTABLISHED AND CORDIAL BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE RITUALISTIC SIGNATURE OF ANOTHER PROTOCOL TO AN ECON AND TECH COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THE PUBLIC CRONYISM OF PRESIDENTS BAKR AND HUSAK AND THE TOURISTIC ATMOSPHERE (A SAD FATE IN BROILING IRAQ) DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE PERHAPS MORE PRODUCTIVE RECENT WORKING VISITS OF THE CZECH MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND FOREIGN TRADE.

2. IN THE GOI'S VIEW, PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP IS CZECH ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING THE IRAQI SECURITY POLICE. THE CZECHS ARE IN A POSITION TO BALANCE THE CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN SOME SECTIONS  
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OF IRAQI SECURITY AND THE GDR. IN ADDITION, THE IRAQIS MAY BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING SMALL ARMS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

3. PETROLEUM MIGHT BE A COMPONENT IN THE EVOLVING ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. IN JANUARY 1975 AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED CONCERNING GEOLOGICAL, GEOPHYSICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL

SURVEYS AND COOPERATION IN THE OIL SECTOR. IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE "BOTH SIDES STRESSED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES," AND IRAQ MAY HAVE SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO BARTER OIL FOR CZECH PRODUCTS. COMMERCIAL DEALS HAVE IN THE PAST LARGELY BEEN CONFINED TO SUPPLYING BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA OF TEXTILES, TEXTILE FACTORIES, AND KNOWHOW FOR A FEW MINOR ENGINEERING PROJECTS. ALTHOUGH THE IRAQIS WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK CLOSELY AT PRICE, IMPROVED POLITICAL TIES MAY HELP THE CZECHS CATCH UP WITH THE EAST GERMANS AND POLES IN THE PROFITABLE IRAQI MARKET.

4. IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENT HUSAK'S VISIT THE GOI WAS UNUSUALLY FORTH-COMING, COMMENTING ON THE "POSITIVE IMPACT" OF THE CSCE AND SUPPORTING THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TO BE SUPPORTED BY ALL STATES. THE IRAQI AND CZECH STATEMENTS ON THE ROLE OF THE PALESTINIANS DIFFER SLIGHTLY. THE IRAQI VERSION CALLS FOR "RECOVERING OF THE INALIENABLE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS" WHILE THE CZECH VERSION (FBIS) DEMANDS "FULL SATISFACTION OF THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

5. IRAQI STRONGMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN'S DECISION TO ABSTAIN FROM CONFERRING WITH MEMBERS OF THE CZECH DELEGATION MAY ONLY BE DUE TO HEALTH PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE HIM ON A HALF-TIME WORK SCHEDULE. IT MAY, HOWEVER, SIGNAL IRAQI COOLNESS TOWARD ITS EASTERN EUROPEAN CONNECTIONS. AFTER RECENT VISIT  
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TO GULF OF IRAQI INTERIOR MINISTER, GOI PROBABLY WISHES TO PLAY DOWN ITS TIES TO COMMUNIST STATES. IN ANY CASE, SADDAM'S ABSENCE UNDERSCORED SYMBOLIC AND PRO-FORMA NATURE OF HUSAK VISIT.  
MACK

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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